

Press Release: For Immediate Release

**Sam Penny's Novel Memphis 7.9 Awarded Honorable Mention
in 2004 Darrell Award Competition for
Best Science Fiction Novel at MidSouthCon 22.**

Memphis, TN – March 30, 2004 – The Memphis Science Fiction Association recognized Sam Penny's **Memphis 7.9** as Honorable Mention for the 2004 Darrell Award for Best MidSouth Novel at ceremonies on March 27, 2004 at MidSouthCon 22 in Memphis, Tennessee.

Michael Kingsley, chairman of the Darrell Awards Committee for MidSouthCon 22 states, "Memphis 7.9 is the first novel by RV enthusiast Sam Penny, and is the first volume of his proposed tetralogy. Mr. Penny is a retired engineer, and puts into his novel all the hard science that would appeal to the average reader of Analog magazine."

Penny explains, "Memphis 7.9 addresses the question of what happens when, not if, a great earthquake strikes on the New Madrid Fault forty-five miles from Memphis. My book is fiction but it is based on hard scientific facts. That is what makes it science fiction."

The Darrell Awards are named in honor of long-time Memphian Dr. Darrell C. Richardson, world-traveler, Baptist minister, internationally known fan of Edgar Rice Burroughs, and founding member of the Memphis Science Fiction Association. The Darrell Awards are designed to promote regional literacy by recognizing the best published science fiction, fantasy, or horror that is either by a Midsouth author or uses the area in a prominent way.

Penny continues, "The question is, what happens to our cities, our land, our society when a great earthquake once again fractures the New Madrid Fault in the center of the United States as it did in 1811. Seismologists agree such an event is inevitable, and though they disagree on the timing they admit it will happen again in the near future. **Memphis 7.9** is the first book in **The 7.9 Scenario** series and tells through the eyes of those who are there of attempts to predict the event and of effects across the country when the earthquake happens. Most people do not realize the extent of the catastrophe that will happen."

The 7.9 Scenario is a series of four novels scheduled for publication in 2003 through 2005. Visit Penny's website at www.the79scenario.com for information about the series and more facts about earthquakes on the New Madrid Fault.

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